BOLIVIA: New Trouble for Garcia Meza

Despite denials on both sides, General Garcia Meza had inveterate plotter General Natusch arrested last Friday in order to forestall a coup. Natusch's popularity within the military, however, compelled Garcia Meza to release him. Garcia Meza's weakness makes it likely that Natusch will renew his plotting, with or without the aid of former President Banzer, another active aspirant to the presidency. Support for Garcia Meza by key commanders is increasingly tenuous, and he may be ousted unless he keeps his promises to eradicate the illicit narcotics industry--which is unlikely--and persuade the US to normalize relations.